CLAIMS:

We claim:

1. A terminal for insertion into a receiver slot of a bulb socket assembly, wherein the terminal comprises:
   a. a lamp bulb connecting blade with at least one prong;
   b. a first terminal surface of the blade and a second terminal surface of the blade that are opposed from each other, wherein at least one of the first or second terminal surfaces is integral with the at least one prong; and
   c. at least three alignment features located on the first and second terminal surfaces, wherein at least one of the at least three alignment features is located on each of the first and second terminal surfaces.
2. The terminal of claim 1, wherein the at least two alignment features are bumps extending outward from the terminal surfaces of the blade.
3. The terminal of claim 2, wherein the bumps are partial spheres.
4. The terminal of claim 1, wherein at least two alignment features are located on the first terminal surface.
5. The terminal of claim 1, wherein at least two alignment features are located on the second terminal surface.
6. The terminal of claim 1, wherein the at least one prong comprises a first prong and a second prong.
7. The terminal of claim 6, wherein the first terminal surface is integral with the first prong and the second terminal surface is integral with the second prong.

8. The terminal of claim 1, further comprising a side wall that is integral with the first and second terminal surfaces and that connects the first terminal surface to the second terminal surface.

9. The terminal of claim 8, wherein the at least three alignment features are located on the portions of the first and second terminal surfaces that are adjacent to the side wall.

10. The terminal of claim 1, wherein at least two alignment features are located on each of the first and second terminal surfaces.

11. The terminal of claim 1, further comprising a cover plate that is integral with the blade so that the blade and the first and second terminal surfaces are substantially perpendicular to the cover plate.

12. The terminal of claim 11, further comprising a terminal lead end that is integral with the cover plate.

13. The terminal of claim 12, wherein the terminal lead end is substantially perpendicular to the blade and substantially parallel to the cover plate.

14. A bulb socket assembly comprising:

a. a bulb accepting body portion with at least one receiver slot that has a first wall and a second wall opposed from each other;

b. a terminal accepting body portion connected to the bulb connecting body portion; and

c. at least one terminal positioned in the bulb socket, the at least one terminal having

(i) a blade with at least one prong extending into the bulb accepting body portion through the at least one receiver slot,

(ii) a lead end connected to the blade and positioned in the terminal accepting body portion,

(iii) a first terminal surface of the blade that is positioned and located next to the first wall of the at least one receiver slot,

(iv) a second terminal surface opposed to the first terminal surface and that is positioned and located next to the second wall of the at least one receiver slot, and

(v) at least three alignment features positioned on the first and second terminal surfaces, so that at least one of the at least three alignment features are located on each of the first and second terminal surfaces and so that each of the alignment features make contact with one of the first or second walls of the at least one receiver slot;

wherein at least one of the first or second terminal surfaces is integral with the at least one prong.

15. The terminal of claim 14, wherein the alignment features properly align the terminal in the bulb socket during insertion into the receiver slot.

16. The terminal of claim 15, wherein the alignment features stabilize the terminal in the bulb socket.

17. The bulb socket assembly of claim 14, wherein the terminal further comprises a cover plate that is integral with the blade so that the blade and the first and second terminal surfaces are substantially perpendicular to the cover plate.

18. The bulb socket assembly of claim 17, wherein the cover plate is integral with the lead end.

19. The bulb socket assembly of claim 18, wherein the terminal lead end is substantially perpendicular to the blade and substantially parallel to the cover plate.

20. The bulb socket assembly of claim 19, further comprising at least one wire connected to the lead end of the at least one terminal.

21. The bulb socket assembly of claim 20, further comprising a sealing material positioned in the terminal accepting body portion, the sealing material substantially covering the cover plate and the lead end with the wire connected thereto of the at least one terminal, wherein the sealing material seals the at least one wire to the terminal lead end and wherein the cover plate prevents the sealing material from entering into the bulb accepting portion.

22. The bulb socket assembly of claim 21, wherein the terminal assembly further comprises a side wall that is integral with the first and second terminal surfaces and connects the first and second terminal surfaces to one another.

23. The bulb socket assembly of claim 22, wherein the at least three alignment features are located on the portions of the first and second terminal surface that are adjacent to the side wall.

24. The bulb socket assembly of claim 14, wherein at least two alignment features are located on the first terminal surface.

25. The bulb socket assembly of claim 14, wherein at least two alignment features are located on the second terminal surface.

26. The bulb socket assembly of claim 14, wherein at least two alignment features are located on each of the first and second terminal surfaces.

27. The bulb socket assembly of claim 14, wherein the alignment features are bumps.

28. The bulb socket assembly of claim 27, wherein the alignment features are partial spheres.

29. A method of assembling a socket assembly, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

a. providing at least one terminal having

(i) a lamp bulb connecting blade with at least one prong,

(ii) a first terminal surface of the blade and a second terminal surface of the blade that are opposed from each other, wherein at least one of the first or second terminal surfaces is integral with the at least one prong,

(iii) at least three alignment features located on the first and second terminal surfaces, wherein at least one of the at least three alignment features is located on each of the first and second terminal surfaces;

b. providing a bulb socket with at least one receiver slot, wherein the receiver slot has a first wall and a second wall opposed from each other; and

c. inserting the at least one terminal into the receiver slot so that each of the at least three alignment features contact either the first wall or second wall of the receiver slot.

30. The method of assembling a socket assembly of claim 29, wherein the lamp bulb connecting blade is substantially perpendicular to and integral with a cover plate.

31. The method of assembling a socket assembly of claim 30, further comprising the step of substantially covering the receiver slot with the cover plate.

32. The method of assembling a socket assembly of claim 31, further comprising the step of substantially covering the cover plate with a sealing material.